# The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

## Security Incidents

### Africa

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo

10 August 2016: Two aid workers from an unspecified aid organisation were kidnapped from the northeast town of Lubero, North Kivu Province. The Allied Democratic Forces, a Ugandan rebel group, is suspected of being behind this assault. Source: 7sur7

11 August 2016: In the northwest town of Basankusu, Équateur Province, two suspected bandits shot and killed an accountant from Caritas, and stole a substantial amount of cash from him. Source: Radio Okapi

16 August 2016: In the eastern territory of Mweso, North Kivu Province, militiamen from the rebel group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda attacked a vehicle carrying three local aid workers working for Caritas. The victims were kidnapped, and released a day later. A second vehicle was also fired upon, but escaped with its occupants. A photojournalist received wounds in the leg. According to AWSD, an international INGO staff member was injured but it remains unclear whether this is the photojournalist. Source: MaliActu and AWSD.

#### Madagascar

22 August 2016: Two French volunteers from the environmental non-governmental organisation (NGO) Cetamada were found dead on the small island of Sainte Marie, off the northeast coast of Madagascar. They both had injuries to the head. An investigation is underway. Source: Reuters

#### Mali

07 August 2016: In the eastern village of Aguelhoc, Kidal Region, a Chadian UN peacekeeper was killed and five others wounded when a logistics vehicle was hit by a landmine. Two hours later, another mine exploded near a peacekeeping vehicle, causing only material damage. Sources: Reuters and Rida Lyammouri

*Mozambique*

12 August 2016: Militiamen linked to the main opposition party of Mozambique, RENAMO, raided the local district hospital of Morumbala, in the central province of Zambezia. The assailants fired gunshots inside the building, and looted medicine from its main pharmacy. Source: Human Rights Watch

*Nigeria*

05 August 2016: In the northeast region of the country, the militant group Boko Haram attacked a UN humanitarian convoy. Source: ACAPS

*South Sudan*

02 August 2016: In the northern county of Leer, Unity State, an aid worker of an unspecified organisation was injured during fighting between the South Sudanese military and rebels who had broken the ceasefire. Source: Radio Tamazuj

Around 09 August 2016: An NGO staff member sustained gunshot wounds in Mayendit County during an eruption of fighting between the SPLA and an opposing group. Source AWSD

17 August 2016: A contractor for a UN agency was shot and killed in his home in Yambio. No further information is currently available. Source AWSD

# Asia

*Afghanistan*

07 August 2016: In the Afghan capital of Kabul, four or five gunmen kidnapped an American and an Australian who are believed to be affiliated with a Kabul university. The motivation behind this incident is not yet known. Source: Reuters

23 August 2016: In the eastern district of Yaftal Pain, Badakhshan Province, two drivers from the World Food Programme (WFP) were kidnapped and then released. No further information is available. Source: Nicole Elliot

29 August 2016: *Update:* The Australian director of the Zardozi aid group, who was abducted in April this year, has been safely released after intervention by the Afghan special forces near the eastern city of Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province. Sources: BBC and Reuters

*Pakistan*

04 August 2016: In the provincial capital of Karachi, Sindh Province, a doctor was shot in his clinic by an unknown assailant. Source: Dawn

08 August 2016: A suicide bomber from the militant group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar killed 70 people when he blew himself up in a civil hospital in the northern provincial capital of Quetta, Balochistan Province. More than 100 people were wounded. The militant group Islamic State also claimed responsibility for this deadly attack. Sources: Reuters and Stratfor

# Europe

*Armenia*

02 August 2016: Three medical workers continued to be held hostage by a group of anti-government armed men at a police post in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. The assailants, who had stormed the building on 17 July this year, demanded that doctors perform surgery on their injured fighters in exchange for the three medics. Source: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

# Middle-East and North Africa

## *Syrian Arab Republic*

01 August 2016: A camp for the internally displaced in the southwest Damascene suburb of Khan al-Shih was hit by Syrian Government air force fighter jets, killing five people. Source: SNHR

02 August 2016: In the northwest village of Al Jamilyya, Idlib Governorate, a camp for internally displaced people near the Syrian-Turkish border, known as Othman Bin Affan, was targeted and damaged by the Syrian Government air force. Source: SNHR

02 August 2016: In the northwest town of Salqin, Idlib Governorate, two mortar shells from an unknown source landed on Samidoun, a camp for the internally displaced, and damaged it. Source: SNHR

02 August 2016: A member of the Syria Civil Defence (SCD) died from a targeted attack while clearing UXOs in the northwest provincial capital of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate. Source: The White Helmets

02 August 2016: In the northwest town of Sarmin, Idlib Governorate, the Syrian Government air force fired missiles on Mohammad Baidoun School causing damage to it. Source: SNHR

02 August 2016: In the district of Khan al-Assal, northwest Aleppo, a Sham Aid System ambulance was damaged by the Syrian Government air force. Source: SNHR

03 August 2016: In Salqin, close to the Syrian border with Turkey, a camp for the internally displaced was hit. No information about the circumstances surrounding this incident is available. Source: iHH

03 August 2016: In the northwest provincial capital of Aleppo, a vacuum bomb damaged a Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) facility. Source: SAMS

03 August 2016: In the southwest Damascene suburb of Al Rayhan, an SCD ambulance was targeted and destroyed by the Syrian Government air force. Source: SNHR

04 August 2016: Al Atarib, a camp for the internally displaced, was shelled by the Russian air force, killing at least one child and damaging tents.  Sources: SNHR I and SNHR II

04 August 2016: In the northwest village of Ma'aret Al Atareb, Aleppo Governorate, a team of rescue workers from the SCD was targeted whilst responding to a bombing of a camp for the internally displaced, wounding two of its members. Source: The White Helmets

04 August 2016: In Ma'aret Al Atareb, an SCD ambulance was targeted in a suspected Russian air force operation. Source: SNHR

04 August 2016: Syrian Government air forces fired missiles on a health clinic in the Damascene suburb of Al Marj, rendering it inoperable. Source: SNHR

05 August 2016: Al Atarib School was destroyed amid Syrian Government and Russian air force operations in Al Atarib. Source: SNHR

05 August 2016: A mortar shell of unknown origin hit Al Saeediyeh School in the northwest village of Al Saeediyeh, Idlib Governorate. Source: SNHR

05 August 2016: In the northwest city of Saraqib, Idlib Governorate, the Syrian government air force and allied forces fired a missile onto Al Sakhra School, damaging it. Source: SNHR

06 August 2016: Syrian Government or Russian air force fighter jets struck four consecutive times, and ultimately destroyed the main hospital of the northwest village of Millis, Idlib Governorate, killing 13 people, including four health officials, and injuring six hospital employees, as well as depriving 70,000 people of essential medical care. Sources: Al Jazeera, Daniel Nisman, Doctors Without Borders, MSF, Stratfor, SNHR, Reuters, Reuters II and Reuters III

06 August 2016: A missile fired by the Syrian Government air force landed near a makeshift hospital in Sarmin rendering it inoperable. Source: SNHR

08 August 2016: During the first week of August, joint Syrian-Russian Government air force strikes in Saraqib, Idlib Governorate, destroyed, *inter alia*, one ambulance station and a blood bank. Source: The White Helmets (Idlib)

09 August 2016: In the northwest village of Al Jamilyya, Idlib Governorate, a previously targeted camp for the internally displaced, known as Othman Bin Affan, was struck by a Russian drone. Source: Orient Net

10 August 2016: In the southwest Damascene suburb of Al Rayhan, the SCD was targeted by Syrian Government air force in unspecified circumstances. Source: SNHR

11 August 2016: A volunteer from the SCD was killed amid an airstrike in the city of Aleppo. Two fellow rescue workers were seriously injured as well. Sources: NPR, Riam Dalati and The White Helmets

11 August 2016: In the city of Aleppo, a rescue team chief from the SCD was killed amid Syrian-Russian shelling on the neighbourhood of Al Ramosa. Sources: Devex, SNHR and United States Institute of Peace

11 August 2016: In the northwest provincial capital of Idlib, Idlib Governorate, the Syrian Government air force targeted an unspecified asset belonging to Sham Aid System, causing damage to it and rendering it inoperable. Source: SNHR

11 August 2016: Two ambulances belonging to Sham Aid System in the city of Idlib were damaged when Syrian Government air force missiles landed in close proximity. Source: SNHR

11 August 2016: An SCD ambulance was hit by the Syrian Government air force in Saraqib, wounding three SCD staff and damaging the ambulance. Source: SNHR

11 August 2016: In Al Ramoseh, northwest Aleppo, a SCD rescue vehicle was partially damaged when the Russian air force allegedly attacked it. Source: SNHR

12 August 2016: Syrian Government forces attacked three unspecified health facilities within 24 hours. The lives of three paramedics were lost as a result. Source: Mohamed Katoub

12 August 2016: An SCD fire engine was rendered inoperable by the Syrian Government air force in the city of Aleppo. Source: SNHR

12 August 2016: The Syrian Government air force and allies attacked a hospital in the northern village of

Kafr Hamrah, Aleppo Governorate, rendering it inoperable. Source: SNHR

12 August 2016: A crane used by SCD for rescue operations was destroyed by the Syrian Government air force in the northwest suburb of Bab Al Nayrab, Aleppo. Source: SNHR

12 August 2016: The Syrian Government air force attacked a medical facility in the town of Housh Al Fara, Damascus suburb, rendering it inoperable. Source: SNHR

14 August 2016: The Syrian Government air force fired missiles on an SCD post in the town of Al Rehaibeh, Damascus suburb, damaging it. Source: SNHR

14 August 2016: The Russian air force is suspected of targeting a hospital in the northwest town of Orm Al Kubra, Aleppo Governorate, and damaging it. Source: SNHR

17 August 2016: In the northwest city of Al Bab, Aleppo Governorate, missiles were fired by the Russian air force (allegedly) on two ambulances belonging to Al Farooq Hospital, rendering them inoperable. Source: SNHR

19 August 2016: A barrel bomb dropped by a Syrian Government air force helicopter destroyed the only hospital in the besieged, rebel-held Damascus suburb of Darayya. No casualties have been reported, but all medical equipment was reduced to ashes, and the hospital rendered inoperable. Sources: Al Jazeera, Reuters and SNHR

19 August 2016: In the western provincial capital of Homs, Homs Governorate, Syrian Government tanks shelled Al Bir Hospital in Al Wa'er neighbourhood, partially damaging it. Source: SNHR

22 August 2016: In the northwest city of Areeha, Idlib Governorate, Al Sena'iyeh School was targeted and partially damaged by the Syrian Government air force. Source: SNHR

27 August 2016: A barrel bomb was dropped from a Syrian Government air force helicopter in the suburb of Bab Al Nayrab, northwest Aleppo, damaging an ambulance and rendering it inoperable. Sources: SNHR I and SNHR II

27 August 2016: In the city of Homs, Syrian Government artillery mortar shells partially damaged Al Waleid Obstetric Hospital in the neighbourhood of Al Wa'er. Source: SNHR

27 August 2016: Missiles of suspected Russian origin were fired on the building of Forensic Medicine in Al Sukari, Aleppo, causing partial damage. Source: SNHR

29 August 2016: In the city of Idlib Governorate, a gynaecology and maternity hospital was rendered inoperable after being targeted by forces aligned with the Syrian Government. Source: SNHR

29 August 2016: In the city of Idlib, an ambulance belonging to the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association was partially damaged as Syrian Government and Russian air forces attacked it. Source: SNHR

29 August 2016: A surgical hospital in the city of Idlib was attacked by Syrian Government and Russian air forces, thereby damaging it. Source: SNHR

29 August 2016: Missiles fired by the Syrian Government air force struck the specialised hospital of El Eman in the northwest town of Sarjeh, Idlib Governorate. The building was partially damaged, and the

facility rendered inoperable. Source: SNHR

30 August 2016: In the northwest town of Khan Shaykhun, Idlib Governorate, a warehouse for textbooks belonging to the Free Idlib Education Directorate was targeted and damaged by the Syrian Government air force. Source: SNHR

30 August 2016: In the district of Al Mash'had, northwest Aleppo, a barrel bomb was dropped from a Syrian Government air force helicopter onto Jameil School, causing damage. Source: SNHR

31 August 2016: The Faculty of Literature in the Idlib neighbourhood of Al Thebait sustained damage from Syrian and Russian Government air force operations. Source: SNHR
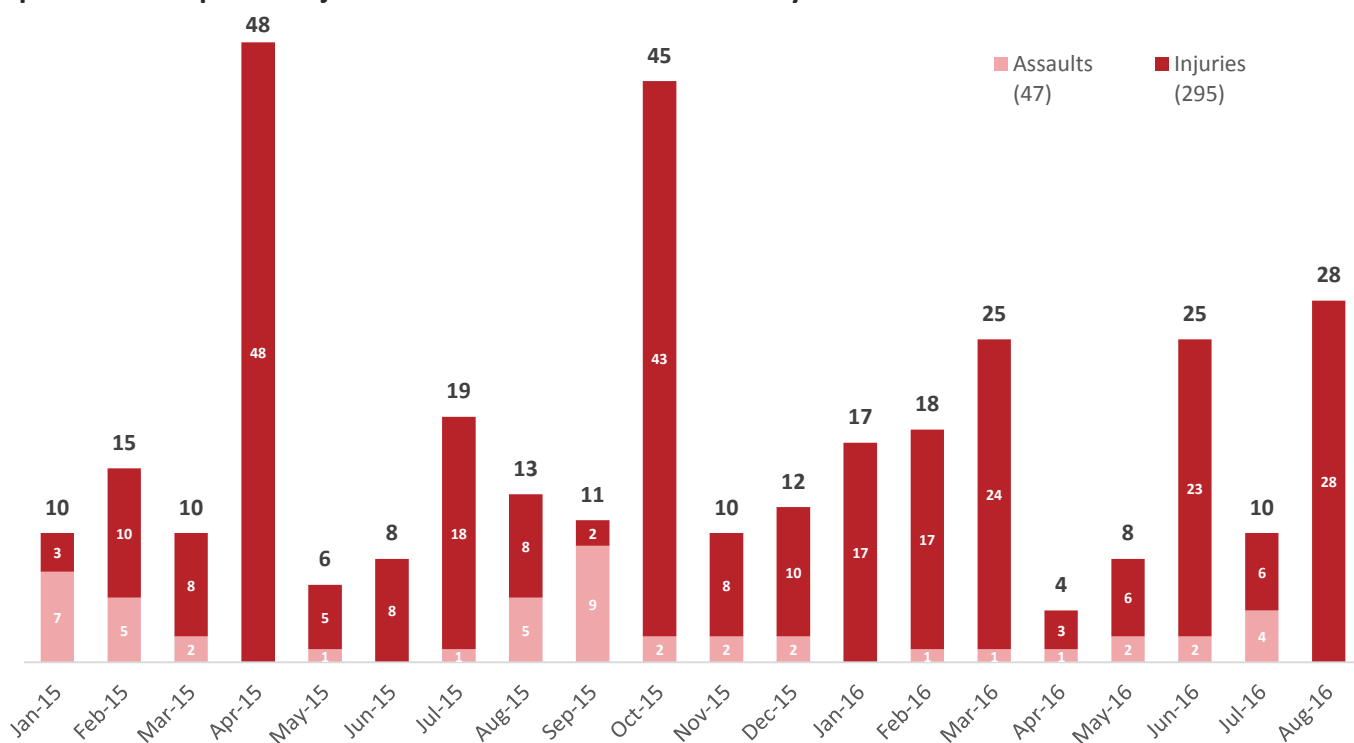
*Yemen*

11 August 2016: A Yemen Red Crescent Society volunteer was killed by a shot to his head in the southeast provincial capital of Taiz, Taiz Governorate. The circumstances which led to his death remain unknown. Source: ICRC

13 August 2016: A religious school in the northern village of Juma'a Bin Fadil, Saada Governorate, was attacked by the Saudi-led coalition, killing 10 children and injuring 28 more. Sources: Reuters I, Reuters II and Thomson Reuters Foundation

15 August 2016: In the northwest district of Abs, Hajja Governorate, an MSF operated hospital was struck by Saudi air power, killing at least 19 people, including one health official, wounding 24 others and partially destroying the facility. The location of the hospital was well-known to all conflict parties, suggesting that the incident was deliberate, and not a mistake. Sources: BBC, Doctors Without Borders, MSF Ireland, Reuters, Sputnik and Thomson Reuters Foundation

# Trend Reporting: January 2015 – August 2016

**Open source reported injuries and assaults of aid workers by month**

Between January 2015 and August 2016, open sources reported the injury or assault of 342 individuals employed or attached to humanitarian, UN or government aid agencies. This includes staff of international and local relief and development NGOs (non-profit, for-profit and faith-based) and healthcare personnel that operate in a humanitarian context. Further included are personnel working for humanitarian mine detection or clearance as well as security guards employed or contracted by aid agencies and personnel of commercial contractors if they were subcontracted by an agency providing emergency relief (such as private contractors delivering food for WFP), but not if they were working on reconstruction projects.

The distinction between assault and injury is not always easy to make on the basis of available information. In our coding, assaults describe violence against aid workers where no specific injuries are reported while injuries count the number of aid workers explicitly described as having sustained injuries. Most injuries are inflicted with either firearms or explosive weapons. Many assaults are carried out with body parts or objects.

The number of reported injuries and assaults among aid workers is a reflection of the general level of violence aid workers are exposed to.

*Data collection is ongoing and these numbers may change as new information is made available.*
*Where the number of aid workers affected is unspecified, one aid worker is counted.*

## Security-related access constraints

### Africa

#### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*
08 August 2016: Local youths blocked access to 30 IDP camps by erecting roadblocks on the Goma Masisi road, North Kivu Province in protest of aid policies that in their view fail to address the real needs of the local population and employ too few local staff. Source: Mediacongo

09 August 2016: The Congolese Government has refused to renew the visa of a senior Human Rights Watch researcher. Sources: News24, Radio Okapi and Reuters

#### *Ethiopia*
06 August 2016: In the midst of anti-government protests across the vast region of Oromia, an unspecified number of aid organisations evacuated their offices in Hirna and Chiro, West Hararghe Zone, and Bedeno and Grawa, East Hararghe Zone, for fear of imminent unrest. Source: Horn Affairs

#### *Mali*
13 August 2016: Fresh violence in the northeast region of Kidal has disrupted the distribution of humanitarian supplies to vulnerable communities as aid organisations have restricted staff movement. A terrorist attack caused access constraints in the central rural commune of Nampala, Segou Region. No specific information is available. Source: aBamako

#### *Nigeria*
05 August 2016: The UN suspended its humanitarian operations in the northeast of the country, following a Boko Haram attack on a UN humanitarian convoy. Source: ACAPS

19 August 2016: The Nigerian authorities have closed 12 camps for the internally displaced located in the

northeast state of Adamawa, and six in Yobe State, claiming that residents had returned home on a voluntary basis following the liberation of their communities. Source: Daily Trust

### South Sudan

02 August 2016: The South Sudanese authorities have adopted new immigration regulations affecting peacekeeping personnel. As a result, over 100 UN workers arriving at the airport of the South Sudanese capital, Juba, were either denied entry into the country, or returned. Source: Radio Tamazuj

03 August 2016: Following a three-day mission in conflict-ridden South Sudan, the head of OCHA Stephen O'Brien claimed that violence against aid workers and aid assets within the country is severely hampering relief operations. Source: UN News Centre

31 August 2016: In the midst of a wave of violence, UN peacekeepers have been unable to send patrols to the southwest city of Yei, Yei River State, preventing them from corroborating reports of atrocities. Source: Radio Tamazuj

## Asia

### Afghanistan

17 August 2016: The Taliban siege of the southern city of Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province, which started at the beginning of August, is making it difficult for ill and injured civilians to access health care and is causing access constraints for relief organisations. Source: IRIN

### China

23 August 2016: As part of its continued crackdown on non-governmental organisations, the Government of China has released a new set of tightening regulations, which state departments are expected to apply, including the establishment of mechanisms to investigate leaders of civil society groups, allowing the same departments to question, replace, or ban those in charge. Sources: Hong Kong Free Press and Reuters

### India

19 August 2016: According to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, NGOs in India are not allowed to receive foreign funding twice under a prior permission category. This rule, however, is not strictly enforced, leading to some alleged abuse by civil society groups. To that end, Indian authorities have stated that they shall stop this practice by strictly enforcing the aforementioned law. Source: Times of India

### Myanmar

August 2016: The authorities of Myanmar are investigating the sale of identity documents to Rohingya refugees by the Myanmar Ethnic Rohingya Human Rights Organisation Malaysia, without prior official approval. Source: Arakan News Agency

16 August 2016: The Myanmar Government prevented Swissaid and MSF from entering the northern Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region, where communities are plagued by an outbreak of measles, and thus require immediate medical intervention. Source: Eleven

### Pakistan

03 August 2016: Hundreds of Pakistani activists from Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the charitable arm of the anti-India militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, were prevented from entering the Indian side of the disputed region of Kashmir by both Pakistani and Indian authorities to distribute aid. Source: Reuters

# Europe

## *Greece*

02 August 2015: On the eastern Greek island of Lesbos, the aid group Euro Relief is expected to take disciplinary action against several volunteers who distributed religious material in Moria Detention Camp in an attempt to convert Muslim refugees to Christianity. Source: The Guardian

## *Russian Federation*

18 August 2016: The Russian authorities have designated United States-based NGOs – the International Republican Institute and the Media Development Investment Fund – as *undesirable* under the controversial Foreign Agent Law. The investigation into the organisations suggests that the same NGOs allegedly pose a threat to the foundations of the constitutional order and national security. Source: Amnesty International

# Middle-East and North Africa

## *Jordan*

04 August 2016: For the first time since June this year, UN agencies and the International Organization for Migration successfully managed to complete aid deliveries to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees stranded along the country's northeast frontier with Syria, an area which Amman declared as a military zone following a militant suicide attack in June this year. Sources: Middle East Eye, Thomson Reuters Foundation and World Food Programme

## *Occupied Palestinian Territories*

04 August 2016: The Israeli authorities have charged the operations manager of the World Vision International office in the territory of Gaza Strip with diverting aid funds and providing material assistance to Hamas, which were allegedly used to build a jetty for military operations. World Vision operations are on hold while the investigation is ongoing. The accused has been detained since 15 June this year. The German and Australian governments suspended relief funding for World Vision International's operations in the Palestinian territories on 5 August. Sources: Haaretz, IRIN, Times of Israel, Reuters, The Guardian and The New York Times

08 August 2016: Israeli authorities have accused a Palestinian employee of the Gaza Strip branch of Save the Children of joining the military wing of the terrorist group Hamas. Save the Children said it is investigating the matter. Source: AFP

09 August 2016: Israeli prosecutors have also charged a Palestinian engineer from the United Nations Development Programme with providing material support to Hamas. The authorities also rejected a UN request to grant him diplomatic immunity. The accused has been detained since 3 July this year. Sources: The New York Times, Aljazeera and Times of Israel

## *Syrian Arab Republic*

01 August 2016: A field hospital located somewhere in the south of the country was closed following air strikes. Source: Syria Direct

03 August 2016: UN officials managed to gain access to the Damascus suburb of Madaya, but were prevented from treating malnutrition. Source: SAMS

05 August 2016: The US and various aid groups expressed their objections to a proposal put forward by the Russian Government to create humanitarian corridors for civilians who wish to leave the rebel-held

east of the city of Aleppo. They warned that the Syrian Government and its allies may designate civilians who opt to remain in the city as opposition supporters, and then crack down on them. The UN has considered the proposal. Sources: Reuters and The Guardian

08 August 2016: Humanitarian doctors have described the embattled city of Aleppo as *hell*, explaining how wounded children are left to die owing to the lack of the most basic medical supplies in the city. Source: The Guardian

19 August 2016: Medical organisations are refused permits to open new hospitals in local communities in Syria for fear that such heath facilities would draw bombings to their location. Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation

26 August 2016: A humanitarian convoy reached the encircled western Homsian suburb of Al-Waer, but the remaining 17 besieged areas across the country remain, for the most part, inaccessible. Source: France24

31 August 2016: A UN plan to deliver humanitarian aid to the city of Aleppo using the government-held Castillo Road was rejected by the opposition, who want the so-called Ramouseh route to be used instead. Sources: Reuters, Syria Direct and UN News Centre

Please refer to the following sources for further information relating to humanitarian access constraints in the Syrian Arab Republic: Reuters I and Reuters II

### *Yemen*

11 August 2016: Saudi-led coalition warplanes destroyed a bridge used for the overwhelming majority of WFP humanitarian aid from the western port city of Hodeidah, Al Hudaydah Governorate, to Yemen's capital, Sanaa. Sources: Oxfam, Oxfam International and Samuel Oakford

18 August 2016: MSF withdrew its staff from six facilities located across the governorates of Hajja and Saada following the bombing of the MSF hospital on 15 August. Sources: BBC, Reuters I and Reuters II

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Data on People in Danger